

REMARKS

The Office Action objects to Claim 3; rejects Claims 1, 2, 7, 9-16, 19, 24, 27-32, 34, 36-46, 49 and 51-55 under 35 U.S.C. §102; and rejects Claims 3-6, 17-18, 20-23, 33 and 47-48 under 35 U.S.C. §103. Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13-15, 24, 27, 30-32, 34, 36, 40-43, 49, 51, 54 and 55 are amended herein. A Petition for a Three-Month Extension of time is submitted herewith. Applicant believes that the rejections have been overcome for at least the reasons below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing.

At the outset, the Office Action objects to Claim 3 for containing a minor typographical error. More specifically, the Office Action objects to the lack of a period at the end of the claim. Claim 3 has been amended accordingly and Applicants respectfully submit that the objection has been overcome.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 2, 7, 9-16, 19, 24, 27-32, 34, 36-46, 49 and 51-55 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,312,507 to Taylor et al. ("Taylor"), and also rejects Claims 3-6, 17-18, 20-23, 33 and 47-48 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Taylor. Of the pending claims at issue, Claims 1, 15, 32 and 43 are the sole independent claims.

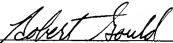
Claims 1, 15, and 32 have been amended to recite, at least in relevant part, a system including: a first electrode; at least two second electrodes; and an interstitial electrode disposed between the second electrodes. Similarly, Claim 43 has been amended to recite, at least in relevant part, a method including: generating an electrical potential between a first electrode and at least two second electrodes in order to create a flow of air in a downstream direction from the first electrode to the second electrode, wherein an interstitial electrode is disposed between the second electrodes. Applicants respectfully submit that Taylor fails to disclose or suggest all the elements of amended Claims 1, 15, 32 and 43. In addition, dependent Claims 2-14, 16-24, 26-31, 33-42 and 44-55 are believed to be allowable for the reasons above and for the additional patentable elements recited therein.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections with respect to Claims 1-24 and 26-55 be withdrawn.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and kindly requests favorable action on the merits. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to contact the undersigned should the Examiner identify any issues that can be addressed over the telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 
Robert M. Gould
Reg. No. 43,642
Cust. No. 29190

Dated: October 19, 2006